

of the International Association of Fire Fighters. This organization represents more than one thousand fire fighters, officers, and EMS workers in Baltimore County. Each and every day, these heroes risk their lives serving the citizens of Baltimore County.

In the wake of the tragic and cowardly attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Local 1311 sprung into action. Recognizing that over three hundred and fifty fellow fire fighters lost their lives during the horrific events of September 11, 2001, members of Local 1311 rapidly organized a fundraising drive to assist the families of our fallen heroes.

Inspired by the IAFF's creation of the New York 9/11 Disaster Relief Fund, the association began a direct campaign to solicit donations for this worthy effort. Local 1311 members hit the streets of Baltimore County from September 21–23. Fire Fighters diligently worked street corners and shopping malls asking for contributions. I am pleased to report the public responded generously. While the final tally has not been calculated, approximately \$300,000 was raised for the 9/11 Fund. All Baltimore County Fire Fighters merit our thanks and congratulations.

I want to express my personal thanks to Local 1311 Trustee, Mr. Ted Moffitt, for coordinating the overall effort. The entire leadership of the organization led by President Mike Day, Secretary-Treasurer Jim Kinard, and Office Assistant Elizabeth Grove assisted with logistical support. Finally, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation is extended to Mr. Edwin F. Hale, Chairman of First Mariner Bank, for the support and assistance he and the bank provided in handling, counting, and safeguarding the voluminous amount of coin and currency collected. This group effort represents the best in America; it will undoubtedly provide much needed relief to survivors of our fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, fire fighters are truly America's bravest. I applaud the Baltimore County Professional Fire Fighters for their hard work and commitment to their county, country, and fellow citizens.

THE TALIBAN AND TERRORISM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues attention a recent op-ed in the Los Angeles Times by Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs under the previous administration. The piece by Mr. Inderfurth details the warnings that the United States clearly, directly and emphatically issued to the Taliban in 1999 regarding their support for, and terrorists activities of, Osama bin Laden. Assistant Secretary Inderfurth informed Mullah Abdul Jalil, a close associate to Mullah Omar, in February of 1999 that the United States would hold the Taliban accountable for bin Laden's future actions and reiterated the request to expel bin Laden to a location where he could be brought to justice.

I ask that the following Los Angeles Times Op-Ed by Karl Inderfurth be placed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to read it.

[From the Los Angeles Times]

FACE TO FACE WITH THE TALIBAN

(By Karl F. Inderfurth)

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President Bush said we will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them. The Taliban of Afghanistan should not have been surprised by this statement. They were similarly warned by the U.S. government more than two years ago.

The meeting took place Feb. 3, 1999, at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Islamabad. As the assistant secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, I was instructed to deliver a message about Osama bin Laden and terrorism to a high-ranking official of the Taliban movement. I was accompanied by the State Department's coordinator for counter-terrorism, Michael Sheehan. Mullah Abdul Jalil, a close associate of the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, and a possible liaison with Bin Laden, traveled to Pakistan to meet with us. The bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania nearly six months earlier had made it horrifyingly clear that Afghanistan-based terrorism was direct threat to the United States. We were outraged that after all the support the United States had given the Afghan resistance during its struggle against the Soviet Union, the terrorists tied to the bombings, including Bin Laden, were trained and based in Afghanistan.

The U.S. government had repeatedly demanded that the Taliban stop giving safe haven to terrorists. It had also appealed to nations, like Pakistan, that have influence in Kabul. But the situation did not change.

The message I delivered at the February meeting went further than any previous one issued by the U.S. government. Arriving late in the evening from Kandahar, Afghanistan, Mullah Jalil was accompanied by the Taliban's representative in Islamabad. Along with Sheehan, I stressed that the Taliban needed to expel Bin Laden to a location where he could be brought to justice. I emphasized that it was vitally important for the Taliban to act, because the American government believed that Bin Laden was still plotting acts of terrorism against the U.S.—and that we would hold the Taliban responsible for his actions. The message could not have been clearer.

Speaking softly through his interpreter, and frequently stroking his beard, Mullah Jalil responded. He began with a prayer, then proceeded to argue that the Taliban's actions conformed to their interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law. He said Bin Laden was an honored guest of the Taliban for the role he had played in the Jihad, or holy war, during the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan. Mullah Jalil acknowledged that Bin Laden was increasingly a burden on Afghanistan, but the Afghani tradition of hospitality did not permit them to force Bin Laden to leave. Mullah Jalil assured us, however, that Bin Laden was under the Taliban's control and that he could not possibly be operating a worldwide terrorist network as we had suggested. Finally, he demanded that we show him the evidence against Bin Laden and that then the Taliban would act according to Islamic law. Sheehan did, citing chapter and verse from the indictment of Bin Laden for his role in the East Africa embassy bombings.

Later efforts were made to provide the Taliban with more information about the U.S. case against Bin Laden, but they never responded. The nearly three-hour session with Mullah Jalil produced no meeting of the minds. Subsequently, the United Nations Security Council tried to persuade the Taliban

to turn over Bin Laden. Two resolutions were adopted, in October 1999 and December 2000, and sanctions were imposed on the Taliban to accomplish that purpose. Again, the Taliban defied these calls by the international community.

Meanwhile, the Taliban, and some of their supporters, tried to misrepresent our campaign against Bin Laden and terrorism as an attack against Islam. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The United States does not oppose Islam. The United States respects Islam. But we oppose those who commit or condone criminal acts, especially those who commit and inflict grievous injury against civilians in the name of any ideology, religion or cause.

Today, the Taliban and their leader, Mullah Omar, are facing another hour of truth. Let us hope they will change their mind promptly and turn over Bin Laden to appropriate authorities in a country where he can be brought to justice and close down the terrorist training facilities in Afghanistan. If they do not the United States will respond. The Taliban have been warned.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 24, 2001, I was delayed in returning to Washington, D.C. from Columbus, OH due to inclement weather. As a result, I was unable to record a vote on rollcall No. 349 (H.R. 717) and rollcall No. 350 (H.J. Res. 65). I fully support these important measures and had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both.

POWER TO CHANGE OUR WORLD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 18, family and friends gathered together at St. Helen's Church in Norwell, Massachusetts to mourn the loss of John J. Corcoran, a victim of the tragic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11. The memorial service was a stirring reflection of the life and spirit of Mr. Corcoran. From the depths of grief came a deeply moving tribute from his sister, Debi Corcoran of Helena, Montana. Her words of eulogy were so genuinely inspirational that I commend them to all of my congressional colleagues:

On the morning of September 11th, my brother Jay kissed his two children and his wife good-bye and raced to catch United Airlines flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles, where he would resume his job as a Merchant Marine engineering officer. At 9:03 a.m. EST, his plane crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center, killing all on board and thousands within the building as the tower crumbled to the ground. There had been the possibility that Jay had missed his flight, so my family and I, like many other families, held a vigil of prayer for most of the day while we awaited official word from the airlines. Even when the call finally came, it was all too surreal I had just spent the most wonderful family reunion with all my sisters and